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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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50X1-HUM

1. Budva is a small town on the Montenegrin coast and is populated by about 320 inhabitants, of which the majority are employed by the Yugoslav state fish organization, Ribarska Gerna Gora. Until 1918, Budva was under the control of the Austrians who built the public buildings which still stand. The Yugoslavs have built no such buildings since then.
2. From a strategic point of view, the port of Budva is important. From Budva, roads lead to Cattigne in the interior of Montenegro, and from Cattigne the road leads to Titograd and on to Scutari. From Titograd, there is a road that runs through Niksic to Cattaro. There are also roads from Budva to Cattaro and to the strategic regions beyond to which it leads, and on to Petrovac-Dulcigno on the Yugoslav-Albanian border.
3. Budva is manned by two infantry battalions, which are housed in barracks that were occupied during the last war by battalions of the Italian "Venezia" infantry division. There is also a battery of 75/13 millimeter disappearing howitzers. The battalions are armed with the Italian "91" model rifle, with German Mauser carbines, the Breda '35 model machine guns, and a few Brixia 45 millimeter mortars. Automatic arms were very scarce, and only 5 machine guns were observed.
4. The soldiers, many of whom are old, were dressed partially in uniform, partially in civilian clothes, and all wore Montenegrin leggings. The officers were dressed in Italian or German uniforms, with grade insignia like those of Soviet officers. The only article of wearing apparel common to all the militia-men were the field caps, all of which bore the insignia of red star with crossed hammer and sickle.

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5. On the road to Cattigne, above Budva, there is a small fort which was built by the Austrians, and reportedly houses two 149 millimeter pieces for coastal defense.

6. The Navy appeared better represented. At anchor in the Budva port were the following units:

a. Mine-layers:

- (1) CETTINJE, []
- (2) NIKSIC, []
- (3) KOTOR, []
- (4) DURMITOR, []
- (5) LOVKEN, []

50X1-HUM

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b. Patrol boats:

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50X1-HUM

c. Pontoon work shop: DINARA

50X1-HUM

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7. The port of Budva is protected by a mine barrier, which is located to the left of the red buoy which indicates the entrance to the port. Ashore at the harbor-master's office, there were three platoons of navy riflemen who guard the ships anchored in the port, and the harbor facilities.

8. The six fishing vessels of the Ribarska firm were constructed like the mine-layers, and [] they could be readily converted into mine-layers by equipping them with necessary armaments. Also anchored in the port was a refrigerator lighter, belonging to the Ribarska firm, which was capable of accommodating over 20 railway cars of supplies for troops.

50X1-HUM

9. Also present in Budva were about a hundred militiamen of the Yugoslav civil "police", who were under the command of Velimir Ivanovic. They were the only well-dressed and well-fed soldiers, and were all armed with machine-gun rifles of Soviet manufacture, equipped with drum-loaded cartridges. These police appeared to be the only soldiers who were free to come and go, as no soldiers or sailors were seen wandering around town.

10. The civil population, which was kept far from the port, appeared in miserable condition. Their clothes were in rags; their shoes had wooden soles and were laced with twine, and all appeared to be suffering. [] 30 per cent of the population has tuberculosis.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

11. The average monthly pay is from 9 to 12,000 dinars. A kilo of bread costs 40 dinars; a pair of low shoes costs 4,500 dinars; a kilo of rice costs 450 dinars; and sugar costs 300 dinars. The State stores were empty and the town markets were devoid of all articles that should be abundant in an area that was at one time well off. Mutton is distributed once weekly. There are two kinds of bread: the very black bread which is for the inhabitants, and the less dark bread of better quality, which goes to the soldiers. The hotels are dirty and infested with bugs; the people do not talk to, and seek to hide themselves from foreigners, who are kept under surveillance.

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